A Message from Pr. Rachael
We have now entered the liturgical season of Eastertide which is the 50 days following Easter, leading to Pentecost. During this season we celebrate new life and joy. This might be a bit of a challenge this year. While it is clear that the planet is experiencing new life as pollution clears and people stay at home, COVID-19 may make it difficult for us to find joy.

Difficult need not be impossible, though. We cannot focus on the fear, anxiety, and grief all the time. If you are able to get outside, take some time to feel the sun on your face, smell the thawing soil, hear the birds, see the leaves unfurling. Breathe deeply and remember that you are loved and life continues no matter what is happening.

You may also want to be intentional in reaching out to people, especially those you know who might be sheltering in place alone. A call, a text, an email, or a video chat could make a big difference in someone's day. We are a community and need to stay connected. It's an excellent way to
experience a bit of joy.

If joy seems out of reach for you, be gentle with yourself. These are hard days for all of us, especially those who live with mental health challenges. If you need someone to listen, please reach out to me or Pr Laura Beth or someone else you trust. Loneliness, anxiety, fear, or depression are real struggles and you need not struggle alone.

Breathe deeply, pray often, and remember that we are not alone. God is with us and we are connected at the body of Christ. We need one another now more than ever. Check in on your family, friends, and neighbors. Share the Love. It's how we will get through these coming days.

Be well.
Pr. Rachael

Calendar

All Living Table events are Virtual, see the website for information. Rental groups are meeting at their own discretion but many to most are cancelling.

Tuesday:  
6:30 pm Congregational Care

Wednesday:  
10 am Tea with Pastor Rachael 
5 pm Centering Prayer Group 
6 pm GA Meeting (Rental) 
6:30 pm Evening Bible Study

Thursday:  
6 pm shOUT Choir (Rental) 
6:30 pm Church Council Meets

Saturday:  
8 am Morning Bible Study Group reading Luke 
6 pm TAG (Rental)

Sunday:  
9:15 am Adult Sunday School 
10:30 am Worship

Monday:  
3:30 pm Spanish Class (External Group) 
6:30 pm Women's Group

View the full calendar in the Calendar tab on our website: This Week on Zoom
Congregational Care  https://zoom.us/j/259644816
Centering Prayer  https://zoom.us/j/503945880
Evening Bible Study  https://zoom.us/j/641151279
Church Council  https://zoom.us/j/408451011
Morning Bible Study  https://zoom.us/j/933079309
Adult Sunday School 9:15 am  https://zoom.us/j/863972391
Worship 10:30 am  https://zoom.us/j/284800825
Kinship 11:30 am or immediately after worship

Virtual Tea
Beginning on Wednesday, April 15, at 10 am, you can have virtual tea (or whatever you like) with Pr Rachael. She will be on Zoom from 10 -12 each Wednesday to check in with you and chat with others who might be needing a little extra kinship these days. Just click the link and join in.  https://zoom.us/j/998527789

UCC Special Offering
During April, we will collect the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. This Lenten offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the UCC. It provides education to children, empowers communities through vocational training, supports microcredit lending and seeing people through to self-sufficiency, and empowers families with skills to support themselves and their neighbors. You can participate by sending a check to the church, or using the Special Offering option through the Donate Now button.

Calling in to Zoom
For those of you who may need to connect to Zoom via phone, here are the numbers to call: 1-929-436-2866 or 1-312-626-6799. The meeting ID is the same as the numbers in the Zoom link. For example the meeting ID for Sunday morning Worship is 284 800 825 followed by #. Then follow the directions to enter the meeting.

Adult Sunday School
You are invited to share anything you find inspiring, hopeful, or healing. It could be a short article, a video clip, an image, a meme, a poem, or something else. Please send anything you want to share to Pr Rachael by Wednesday evening so they can be included in Thursday's Table Talk.

Community Donations
Several folx have asked about donating funds to members and friends of Living Table who may be in need of financial support at this time. We will be talking about creating a fund that can provide loans or gifts to people as needed. Watch for more information both to donate to and use this fund.

Information about Automatic Deductions
Now that we can’t pass the plate, people are learning other ways to donate to Living Table and its causes. The way that we’ve used for a long time is to have our payment services company, Vanco, deduct money from your checking account on a regular basis so that you don’t have to think about it. You can still do it that way by sending Ann 1) a voided check, 2) how much you want to donate, and 3) at what intervals. Those can be sent directly or to the church.

Another way to donate is to use the Donate Now button on the church website (scroll down to the large photo. The button is just above that; it’s also at the bottom of Table Talk). The site you go to has two sections. The left side of the page enables you to donate via credit card, checking account, or savings account. (Please note that using a credit card costs us a fee out of your donation.) You can designate that money to general operating, the UCC special offering, the Sheridan project, or the food shelf.

The right side of the page enables you to set up an account with a password so that you don’t have to put payment information in each time you use it. In both methods, you can designate a one-time gift or a continuing gift. Note that Vanco will send you a receipt from the church for your donation. However, we also track your gift, which shows up on your yearly statement. Be careful not to claim it twice on your taxes.

Interested in Donating to the Church?

Donate Now